REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 8, and 15 are in independent form. In this paper, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15 are amended to more clearly present the patentable subject matter of Applicants' claimed invention. Support for these amendments may be found in the present application as published (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0055555) at least at paragraphs [0013], [0015], [0019], [0020], and [0021]. Based at least on the amendments and reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections of Claims 1-15

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,039,714 (herein referred to as "Blakley") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0022006 (herein referred to as "Bass"). Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of Blakley, Bass and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0066037 (herein referred to as "Song"). Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of Blakley, Bass and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0046410 (herein referred to as "Gusler"). Claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of the combination of Blakley, Bass and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0111463 (herein referred to as "Amon").

As summarized above, each rejection set forth in the Office Action is based primarily on the combination of Blakley and Bass. However, in view of the amendments and remarks set forth therein, it is clear that Blakley and Bass, considered alone or in combination, fail to teach and/or describe the features recited in independent claims 1, 8, and 15, and all claims dependent thereon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Blakley teaches an authentication component that determines whether a user is authenticated and generates a connection request on behalf of the user. To do so, Blakley requires the user to provide his or her login information in order to be authenticated. The Examiner acknowledges that Blakley does not teach an interface component that compares a received identifier with an expected identifier. (Office Action, page 2). To remedy this deficiency in Blakley, the Examiner relies on Bass as teaching "an interface component to receive a connection request including an identifier and entitlement information (URL of application, username and password) [0028], [0029]." (Office Action, pages 2-3). However, as described in paragraphs [0028] and [0029] of Bass, when a user requests access to a protected web page or application, "a login page will be displayed to the user, and the user will be required to login". (Bass, paragraph [0028]). Bass further describes that "[a]uthentication involves comparing the user login information with a database of user login credentials to determine whether there is a match." (Bass, paragraph [0029]).

Accordingly, the combination of Blakley and Bass results in the user providing his or her login information on two separate occasions, resulting in two different instances of user authentication. With reference to the sections cited by the Examiner in the rejection, the first user authentication occurs according to Blakley (i.e., the 'primary logon' described in column 5, lines 11-18 of Blakley), and the second user authentication occurs according to Bass (Bass, paragraph [0028] and [0029]).

In contrast to the combination relied on by the Examiner, as recited in Claims 1-15, following authentication of the user, the authentication component generates a connection request including an identifier associated with the authentication, not the user. Next, the interface component compares the received identifier (i.e., the authentication component identifier) with an expected identifier to determine if processing may continue. (Applicants' Publication, paragraph [0018]). Here, use of an identifier associated with the authentication

component avoids the need for the user to again provide his or her login information, as is required by Bass.
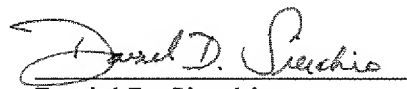
The above-described differences between the claimed invention and the combination of Blakley and Bass render the obviousness rejection of Claims 1-15 inapplicable to the claims as amended. Furthermore, the Office Action fails to establish that the deficiencies in the combined teaching of Blakley and Bass are overcome by the remaining references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action (Song, Gusler, and Amon), which do not address the features set forth in independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

In view of the above remarks, the additional arguments/rejections set forth by the Examiner, particularly those related to the dependent claims, are not specifically addressed in this response. This is not intended to express the Applicants' agreement with the substance or merit of the Examiner's statements concerning Song, Gusler, Amon and/or the present application.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of art cited by the Examiner fails to describe, teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1-15 of the present application. Accordingly, Claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action in this regard is earnestly solicited.

In the event that any issues remain following entry of this Response, Applicants'
attorney respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number
provided below. Applicants ask that all correspondence related to this matter continue to be
directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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